

Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

Frequently Asked Questions

www.ofgem.gov.uk

23 May 2018

Non-Domestic



This FAQ will only provide an overview of scheme requirements. Please consult [the RHI Guidance Volumes 1 and 2](#) for further detail on Ofgem's administration of the RHI and full scheme requirements.

These FAQs are applicable to applicants and participants on the GB Non-Domestic scheme. If you want information about the Northern Ireland Non-Domestic scheme then please refer to [the Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive](#).

The Guidance documents are available on our website: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/non-domestic-renewable-heat-incentive-rhi>.

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1. Who is able to apply for the scheme?

The person making the application for accreditation to the RHI must be the owner, or where more than one person is the owner, one of the owners ('representative owner'¹), of an installation. An 'owner' in the context of the RHI is the person/organisation with exclusive rights and liabilities in respect of an RHI installation. The owner, or 'representative owner', is the person who will receive RHI payments for an accredited installation.

The only exception to the above is in the circumstance of a 'hire purchase agreement, a conditional sale agreement or any agreement of a similar nature'. In these cases, the Act defines the 'owner' for RHI purposes to be the person in possession of the plant under that agreement.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) suspended the Northern Ireland RHI scheme to new applicants from 29 February 2016. From 9 May 2016, the new Department for the Economy (DfE) assumed the roles and responsibility of DETI including policy responsibility for the Northern Ireland Non-Domestic RHI. We continue to administer the Non-Domestic RHI scheme on DfE's behalf. This suspension only applies to the Northern Ireland RHI scheme. The Great Britain RHI scheme is unaffected. For further information see [our frequently asked questions](#).

2. How can I apply?

Applicants in Great Britain can apply for the RHI by going to <https://rhi.ofgem.gov.uk/>. You will need to create an account on the RHI system before you can make an application for accreditation to the RHI. If you do not have access to the internet please contact us on 0300 003 2289 and we will provide you with a paper application.

Please note that we recommend applicants apply via the online system, as this will allow us to process your application more quickly.

3. How do I claim RHI for my business?

In order to claim the RHI, GB applicants will need to submit an application for accreditation and become a participant in the scheme. You must be the owner for the installation in order to apply for the scheme. You will need to demonstrate to us that the installation meets the RHI eligibility criteria. Examples of eligibility criteria include:

- The installation is an eligible technology type and size
- The installation was completed and first commissioned on or after 15 July 2009 and
- That the heat is used for eligible purposes which include heating a space, heating water or for carrying out a process where the heat is used in a building. If the heat is used other than in a building, eligible purposes are limited to commercial drying or cleaning.

A full eligibility checklist and more detailed information on the eligibility criteria and eligible heat uses appear

¹ Where there is more than one owner of an accredited RHI installation, the owner with the authority to act on behalf of all owners is referred to as the representative owner).

² http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/legislation/energy_act_08/energy_act_08.aspx

in [Volume 1 of the Guidance](#).

Different rules apply to producers of Biomethane. Please see the registration for biomethane producers chapter in Volume 1.

4. Can we pre-register?

There is no facility to pre-register for accreditation to the RHI, however there is a facility for preliminary accreditation and preliminary registration (for biomethane applicants). A successful full application would subsequently be needed in order to receive payments.

A Tariff Guarantee guarantees a tariff prior to commissioning. The application is completely separate from both preliminary accreditation and preliminary registration with neither of these counting towards the process. If a tariff guarantee, is sought then an entirely new tariff guarantee application must be started.

The application form will ask whether you wish to apply for a tariff guarantee, and if you do not, then you will be asked whether you wish to apply for preliminary accreditation (or preliminary registration for biomethane applicants). You do not need to apply for either and can also simply submit the full application from the start if your installation is commissioned.

For more information on tariff guarantees please see the [Guide to Tariff Guarantees](#).

Table 1: Tariff Guarantee availability

Technology Type	Capacity
Biomass	>=1MWth
Biomass CHP	all
GSHP	>=100kWth
WSHP	>=100kWth
Geothermal	all
Biogas	>=600kWth
Biomethane	all

5. Preliminary accreditation/preliminary registration

Preliminary accreditation is only available for the following technologies:

- geothermal
- biogas
- solid biomass (including solid biomass contained in municipal waste installations) – 200 kWth and above
- ground source heat pumps - 100kWth and above
- air source heat pumps – 45kWth and above
- shared ground loop systems – 100kWth and above
- biomethane producers (preliminary registration)

Preliminary accreditation, or preliminary registration for biomethane producers, allows an organisation to submit plans and evidence demonstrating that, once built, an installation would meet the eligibility criteria of the RHI scheme. It can be considered as a form of ‘in principle’ agreement and may include conditions. It gives reassurance that once the proposed installation is built and the owner applies we would grant full accreditation or registration so long as the installation is built in line with the submitted plans and all other

conditions are met and there has been no relevant changes to the Regulations since the installation received preliminary accreditation. However it does not make the applicant a participant in the scheme, nor will any payments be made on the basis of preliminary accreditation. Full details on preliminary accreditation and preliminary registration can be found in Chapter 4 and Chapter 13 of Volume 1 respectively.

6. How do Tariff Guarantees work?

A Tariff Guarantee enables installations to secure a tariff rate ahead of their installation commissioning and becoming fully accredited on the RHI. They have been introduced to provide more certainty to installations with longer lead times and encourage them on to the RHI with less risk of a depression influencing the financial viability of the installation.

The application process for Tariff Guarantees involves three stages of submission. Throughout the process, applicants will have the same RHI number and at each stage simply add to the information already provided. At the first stage you will be required to submit some basic information about your proposed development and some supporting documentation. At stage 2 you will be required to submit 'Financial close evidence', and once this is approved, a tariff guarantee will be awarded, securing the tariff rate that prevailed on the date the stage 1 application was submitted (assuming it was 'properly made' when submitted).

7. For more detailed information on the process and evidence requirements please see our guide to tariff guarantees. How long will the scheme last for?

Once you have received accreditation or registration under the RHI you are entitled to support for 20 years, providing you continue to comply with the conditions of your participation.

8. How do I submit an application and ongoing periodic data?

You should generally submit all information that directly relates to your installation, including the application and ongoing data, via the RHI Register. This will help to ensure data integrity, a proper audit trail, and minimise the time taken to process your application.

N.B. As part of your application we need to verify your identity and bank details. We will collect these details as part of the Registration process but if we are unable to verify them we may ask you to post them to us. If we contact you by email to request this, please respond quickly to allow your application to progress. **Do not upload bank statements to the RHI Register or mail them to us.** There are circumstances when you should provide data or documents via email or post. Please refer to Volume 1, Chapter 2, of the Guidance for further details on how to apply and Chapter 5, 6 and 13 for biomethane participants; Volume 2 of the Guidance for information on submitting periodic data.

RHI Register link: <https://rhi.ofgem.gov.uk/>

If you do not have access to the internet, and in other exceptional circumstances, you may be able to make a paper application. However, please note that we cannot take account of any time taken in posting out or returning of the forms in determining the date on which your payments will begin to accrue (accreditation date).

9. If I send in a copy of my specifications for my installation, can you tell me if I will be eligible?

In order to give you a definitive answer on the eligibility of your installation we will need to receive and assess your application for accreditation or biomethane registration. Guidance on eligibility for the scheme can be found in Volume 1 which details the supported technologies and fuels for the scheme. Preliminary accreditation for certain technologies and preliminary registration are available. Please refer to Volume 1 for more information about who can apply.

10. Am I a domestic or a non-domestic installation?

Domestic premises are defined in the non-domestic RHI Regulations as ‘single, self-contained premises used wholly or mainly as a private residential dwelling where the fabric of the building has not been significantly adapted for non-residential use.’

We will consider the eligibility of premises by taking into account the way they are treated for ratings purposes. For example, we will usually consider a property to be single domestic if under council tax banding it is seen as a separate and self-contained premises. If we consider a premises to be single domestic, and it is the only premises served by an installation, you will not be eligible for the Non-Domestic RHI however you may be eligible for the Domestic RHI.

If you have a district heating system for multiple domestic premises utilising a shared ground loop, you would be able to apply for the Non-Domestic RHI as long as the installation is providing heat to multiple self-contained premises, each containing its own bathroom, kitchen and living space. If the installation is supplying heat to multiple self-contained domestic premises that are not rated separately for council tax, you would need to provide other evidence of the multiple domestic premises, such as photographs showing that the premises are self-contained.

11. When do I need a Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS), or equivalent scheme certification?

You will require MCS certification (or equivalent) if your installation (or individual heat pumps in the case of shared ground loops) is 45kWth or less and uses any of the following technologies:

- Ground Source Heat Pumps
- Water Source Heat Pumps
- Solid biomass
- Solar thermal
- Air to water heat pumps

Please see Volume 1 of the Guidance for further information on Microgeneration requirements, including what we consider to be ‘or equivalent’ for the purposes of the scheme.

For further information on MCS, please visit their website: www.microgenerationcertification.org.

12. What are the eligibility criteria for my technology (and fuels)?

You are strongly advised to read the eligibility criteria for your chosen technology in the Ofgem Guidance document Guidance Volume 1 will provide further information on technology specific eligibility criteria.

13. Is my installation district heating?

An eligible installation supplying heat to an apartment building, or a network of pipes supplying heat from an eligible installation to a number of local households or businesses comes under the definition of district heating for the RHI.

14. What about rental properties/holiday lets?

We will consider the eligibility of premises by taking into account the way in which they are treated for ratings purposes.

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA)'s leaflet '[A basic guide to the rating of holiday cottages and self-catering units](#)' provides further information on how the VOA treat these properties. If an installation is supplying heat to a single holiday let, the RHI applicant needs evidence to show that it is either subject to business rates or is available for hire for at least 140 days per year and does not fit the definition of a domestic premises.

15. Why can't I receive the RHI if I have a public grant?

DECC developed the RHI on the principle of no double public funding in order to ensure value for money, and to remain within the European Commission's rules on State Aid. Please refer to page 57 of the Renewable Heat Incentive policy document for further information on DECC's approach to grants.

<http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/What%20we%20do/UK%20energy%20supply/Energy%20mix/Renewable%20energy/policy/renewableheat/1387-renewable-heat-incentive.pdf>

You will not be eligible for the RHI if you have received a 'grant from public funds' for the costs of purchasing or installing your renewable heat installation. Please see the Grants chapter in Volume 1 for how we will treat grants under the scheme.

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/e-serve/RHI/howtoapply/Documents1/RHI_Guidance_Document_Vol_One.pdf

16. What if I have received a public grant?

If you have been paid a grant towards the costs of purchasing and/or installing your renewable heat installation you will still be able to apply for the scheme provided that you have repaid the grant to the grant making body.

There are certain circumstances where if you are unable to pay back a grant, we may be able to make deductions from your RHI payments.

Please refer to the Grants chapter in Volume 1 for more information about grants.

17. How much of the grant do I need to repay?

Ofgem only requires the costs of the 'eligible installation' to be repaid in order for us to be able to accredit an installation that is in receipt of a grant. This may mean that some applicants may only be asked to repay a portion of their grant. Please note that grant provider may not accept part repayment. We advise you to contact your grant provider at the earliest possible opportunity to establish what their requirements are in this regard.

18. What parts of my installation need to be 'new'?

Your plant must be 'new' in order to be eligible for the RHI. We will interpret 'new' to mean plants that are brand new or have not been previously used. This requirement includes any equipment, apparatus or appliance which is necessary for, and integral to, the generation of heat using eligible sources of energy and technologies.

19. I have a Solar Photovoltaic Thermal installation and want to claim the RHI, can I claim for my electricity too?

PVT systems will be eligible for RHI support but only for their heat output, provided the heat output of the system is separately rated in kWth, there is separate thermal metering and the solar thermal aspect of the technology is either a liquid flat plate or evacuated tube type system.

You may be able to claim for the electricity from your PVT system via the Feed in Tariffs (FITs) scheme, which guarantees a minimum payment for all electricity generated by the system, as well as a separate payment for electricity exported to the grid.

Please see the link below which provides further information on the FITs scheme:

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/FITS>

20. How do I prove that my heat meter meets the Class 2 accuracy requirement?

Ofgem require all heat meters to comply with the Class 2 accuracy requirement within EN 1434. Evidence in applications should explicitly illustrate that the heat meter adheres to the Class 2 accuracy standard. Often heat meter model brochures will not provide sufficient evidence, as they do not specify the accuracy standard.

Therefore Ofgem recommends that applications should also be supported by a photograph of the heat meter. The resolution of the image should be sufficient so that the accuracy class can be seen on the meter label. The image could be uploaded to the further supporting evidence section of the application.

21. Do I need a calibration certificate for a new meter?

If your meter is new (under one year old), the most recent calibration is likely to have been at the time of manufacture. In this instance, you may (if requested) provide evidence of purchase or manufacture instead of a calibration certificate.

22. Do I need to submit an Independent Report on Metering Arrangements (IRMA) with my application?

You are required to submit an Independent Report on Metering Arrangements (IRMA) as part for your application if your installation has a capacity of 1MWth or above, **or** is classed as **complex or multiple** for RHI metering purposes. Please note that we will generally **not** require an installation that has a capacity of 45kWth and below to submit an IRMA in the first instance. However, we may require this if, in our view, the installation and associated heating system warrants the provision of such a report. The IRMA template can be found on our website.

23. Do you have a list of persons who can provide the Independent Report on Metering Arrangements?

Ofgem does not provide a list of persons who can complete the Independent Metering Report. As a starting point, you may wish to consult with your installer, meter provider or system designer as one of these may be able to assist. Bodies which may be able to provide lists of individuals who they assert to be competent, independent and adequately insured include the Building & Engineering Services Association (B&ES) [Martina Stocker; martina.stocker@b-es.org; 020 7313 4933] and GASTEC at CRE [01242 677877]. Other lists may also be available.

24. How long will it take for Ofgem to accredit my installation after I have submitted my application for the RHI?

We will aim to accredit your installation efficiently while ensuring it meets the eligibility criteria, however this is dependent on all the information in your application being complete. If we have queries on information provided to us or information is missing, RHI accreditation may be delayed whilst we await satisfactory information from the applicant. We encourage all applicants to refer to our suite of guidance prior to starting an application, which will help them supply the required information to allow for an efficient accreditation review.

Please note that paper applications could take longer due to the time taken to receive posted documents.

25. What can I expect to get paid?

Your payment will depend on the type of technology you install, the size of your installation (for small and medium biomass installations) and the amount of heat you generate. Please see Volume 2, Chapter 6 for specific examples on how we will calculate the payment owed.

26. How will I get paid?

Ofgem will pay your quarterly payment directly into your bank account. We will pay you by BACS transfer.

We will only pay monies into a bank account which accepts pound sterling deposits in the United Kingdom.

27. Will my RHI payment be backdated?

Ofgem will make payments for heat generated from the latter of either the date a complete application was made to the scheme, or the date at which all aspects of eligibility were met. For example, if a full and complete application for an eligible installation has been submitted to Ofgem, then irrespective of the time taken by Ofgem to process this application, payments will be backdated to date of submission. However, payments will not be backdated to the date a system was first commissioned. A system that was commissioned in June 2010 but for which an application was not submitted until 15 December 2011 could not be eligible for any payments for heat generated prior to 15 December 2011.

28. How long will it take for me to get paid after I have submitted my periodic data?

Ofgem will aim to pay your quarterly payment within 6 weeks of receipt of valid periodic data. Where there are delays due to insufficient or inaccurate information provided to us, payments may be delayed. For further guidance, please refer to the tariffs and periodic support chapter in Volume 2.

When payment is made by Ofgem, a remittance advice will be issued to the participant's email address (or fax where no email provided), prior to a participant's bank accounts being credited.

29. What are the tax implications of participating in the RHI? (See the following question for information on Enhanced Capital Allowances)

Applicants are advised to seek their own advice on tax issues related to participating in the RHI by contacting HMRC directly: www.hmrc.gov.uk

30. Am I eligible for an Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECA) if I receive tariff payments through the RHI?

Following their consultation into *Capital Allowances: Feed-in Tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive*, HMRC states that: "From April 2012 (or April 2014 for CHP installations) ECAs will not be available in respect of expenditure on plant or machinery when it generates electricity or heat (or produces biogas or biofuels) that attracts tariff payments under either of the FITs or RHI schemes. ECAs may still be claimed (subject the other conditions of the ECA schemes) in respect of expenditure on such equipment as long as no tariffs are paid. Any ECAs given, in respect of expenditure incurred from April 2012 (or April 2014 for CHP installations), will be withdrawn if FITs or RHI tariffs are paid subsequently."

For further details, please follow this link: <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/tiin/tiin684.pdf>

Or contact HMRC directly: www.hmrc.gov.uk/

31. The RHI for domestic customers

The Domestic RHI scheme is now accepting applications. For more information and to apply, please see the Domestic RHI website: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/domestic-renewable-heat-incentive>.

32. Applicants in Northern Ireland

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) suspended the Northern Ireland RHI scheme to new applicants from 29 February 2016. From 9 May 2016, the new Department for the Economy (DfE) assumed the roles and responsibility of DETI including policy responsibility for the Northern Ireland Non-Domestic RHI. We continue to administer the Non-Domestic RHI scheme on DfE's behalf. This suspension only applies to the Northern Ireland RHI scheme. The Great Britain RHI scheme is unaffected. For further information see [our frequently asked questions](#) on the suspension of the scheme.